

REMARKS

Claims 30-37 are presented for consideration, with Claims 30, 33, 34, 35 and 37 being independent.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 30, 31 and 33-36 were indicated as containing patentable subject matter. Based on this indication, Claims 30, 33, 34 and 35 have been placed in independent form, and Claim 29 has been cancelled.

Claims 29, 32 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Eschbach '860 in view of Suzuki '022 and Katoh '228. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, Claim 29 has been cancelled, as discussed above. In addition, Claim 32 now depends from Claim 31. With respect to Claim 37, this claim has been amended to include a step of supplying a predetermined signal to the one of the plurality of current signal generation circuits, and a step of supplying a signal different from the predetermined signal to the other current signal generation circuits, as in Claim 30. Claim 37 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 30, 33-35 and 37 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 31, 32 and 36 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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